

Region 9

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**LEEK RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Annual Report

**for the Year ending
31st December, 1949**

By

H. KELSO WATSON

Medical Officer of Health



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LEEK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

For the
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1949

By
H. KELSO WATSON,
Medical Officer of Health

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Councillor J. W. Evans.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor G. Shufflebotham.

Members: Councillors G. Baker, J. Bennison, J. W. Blackhurst,
H. N. Bourne, T. W. Buxton, E. V. Coates, C. R.
Critchlow, W. E. Dawson, R. G. Grindon, J.
Harrison, T. Harvey, C. R. Hewlett, J. Needham,
T. Riley, J. Robinson, Mrs. G. Sigley, P. Smith and
F. Turner.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health.

H. KELSO WATSON, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector.

F. HEMINGWAY, M.S.I.A., Certified Food Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

D. K. PEDLEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Certified Food Inspector.

REPORT

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	72,623 acres.
Number of inhabited houses	4,744
Rateable Value	£59,486
Sum represented by penny rate	£232
Population	16,570
Number of persons per acre	.23

INDUSTRIES

The main occupations of the inhabitants are farming and mining, but a substantial number of persons are employed in the silk mills in Leek, and in the quarries on the Derbyshire border.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	150	139	289
Illegitimate	9	7	16
	<hr/> 159	<hr/> 146	<hr/> 305

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population—18.41

Stillbirths	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	2	—	2
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 5

Rate per 1,000 of the population—.30

Deaths (all ages)	M	F	TOTAL
	120	95	215

Death rate per 1,000 of the population—12.98

Deaths of Infants (Under 1 year)	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 6

Death rate per 1,000 live births—19.67

TUBERCULOSIS

The table below shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year, and figures for the two preceding years are given for comparison purposes.

	Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Total (Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1949	96	71	167	31	30	61	127	101	228
1948	78	66	144	31	29	60	109	95	204
1947	69	68	137	29	28	57	98	96	194

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The figures below show the Incidence of Infectious Diseases in 1948 in comparison to those of the two preceding years:

	1949	1948	1947
Measles	36	94	44
Whooping Cough	19	38	15
Diphtheria	—	3	—
Pneumonia	11	6	7
Scarlet Fever	31	44	13
Erysipelas	3	—	3
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	3	1
Dysentery	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1	2
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Pneum. Meningitis	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	—
Total Cases	100	190	86

Incidence of Infectious Diseases

Parishes	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Acute Polionmyelitis	Pneum. Meningitis	Puerperal Pyrexia
Alstonefield	2	3								
Bagnall	1			1	1					
Bradnop	2				6	1				
Butterton										
Endon and Stanley	6			1	4	1				
Fawfieldhead										
Grindon										
Heathylee										
Heaton	1									
Hollinsclough		1								
Horton	2	2		2	2					
Ilam				1						
Leekfrith		11								
Longnor										
Longsdon	1				1					
Norton-in-the-Moors	17			1	13					
Onecote										
Quarnford	4	1		4		1				
Rushton				1						
Sheen										
Tittesworth		1			4					
Warslow and Elkstones										
Wetton										
Total	36	19		11	31	3	—	—	—	—

Months of Occurrence

January		2		1	4					
February	3	1		4						
March	9	2		3	2					
April	16			1	6					
May	1	1			4	1				
June				1						
July	3				1					
August				1	1					
September					2					
October		12			2					
November	4	1			7	2				
December					2					
Total	36	19		11	31	3	—	—	—	—

Age Incidence of Infectious Diseases

AGE GROUP	Measles		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		Pneumonia		Scarlet Fever		Cerebro Spinal Meningitis		Acute Poliomylitis		Puerperal Pyrexia		Erysipelas	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 Year		2	1															
1-5 Years	6	16	7	3				1		6								
6-10 Years	6	2	4	4					3	5								
11-15 Years	1								2	3								
16-20 Years									1	1								
21-25 Years	1	1						1	1								1	
31-35 Years								2										
36-40 Years								2										
41-45 Years								2										
46-50 Years																		
51-55 Years																		
56-60 Years																		
61-65 Years																		
66-70 Years																		
Over 70 Years																		
TOTAL	14	22	12	7	—	—	5	6	15	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
TOTAL — Male and Female	36		19		—		11		31		—							

Causes of Death in Leek Rural District, 1949

Causes of Death	Males	Females
All Causes	120	95
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers		
Cerebro-Spinal Fever		
Scarlet Fever		
Whooping Cough		
Diphtheria		
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis		
Syphilitic Diseases	1	
Influenza	1	4
Measles		
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis		
Acute Infencephalitis		
Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph. uterus	1	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	2
Cancer of Breast		5
Cancer of all other sites	10	6
Diabetes		2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	13	15
Heart Disease	37	31
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	10	3
Bronchitis	4	5
Pneumonia	3	2
Other Respiratory diseases	1	2
Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum ...	3	
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		
Appendicitis	1	
Other digestive diseases	2	1
Nephritis	4	1
Puerperal and post-abort. Sepsis		
Other maternal causes		
Premature Birth		1
Congenital malformation birth inj. infant dis.	2	2
Suicide	5	
Road traffic accident	4	
Other violent causes	5	1
All other causes	10	10

Birth-rates. Civilian Death-rates. Analysis of Mortality.
Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious
diseases in the Year 1949. Provisional figures based on
Quarterly Returns

	Leek R.D.C.	England and Wales	126 C. Bs. and Great Towns including London	148 smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25000-50000 1931 Census	London Adm. County
Births	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—				
Live Births	18.41	16. 7(a)	18.7	18.0	18.5
Still Births	0.30	0.39(a)	0.47	0.40	0.37
Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—				
All Causes	12.98	11.7(a)	12.5	11.6	12.2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	—	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.18	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52
Influenza	0.30	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11
Smallpox	—	0.00	0.00	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	0.30	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59
Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—				
All causes under 1 year of age	19.67	32(b)	37	30	29
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...	—	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7
Notifications—(corrected)	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—				
Typhoid Fever	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	—	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Scarlet Fever	1.93	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46
Whooping Cough	1.15	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70
Diphtheria	—	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07
Erysipelas	0.18	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17
Smallpox	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	2.17	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54
Pneumonia	0.66	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	—	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Food poisoning	—	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19
(a) Notifications:— (corrected)	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still)				
Puerp. Fever and Pyrexia .	—	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82
(b) Maternal Mortality in England and Wales:—					
No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion with- out Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other		
0.11	0.05	0.11	0.71		
Abortion:—Mortality per million women aged 15-45 in England and Wales:—					
No. 140 With Sepsis		No. 141 Without Sepsis			
8		4			

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

Sanitary inspection of the Area—

Summary of Visits

HOUSING :

(A)	Building Licencing	32
(B)	Inspection for Defects	235
(C)	Requisitioning	6
(D)	Overcrowding	25
(E)	Squatters	14
(F)	Council Houses	23
(G)	Council House Applicants	16
(H)	Repairs—Follow up Visits	84
(I)	Tents, Vans and Sheds	20
(J)	Blackshaw Moor Camp	49
(K)	Building Inspections	33
	Inspection of Premises for Nuisances	111
	Visits re Food Supply	29
	Visits re Milk Supply	41
	Ice Cream Premises	25
	Samples of Ice Cream taken	6
	Knackers Yards	9
	New Drains Laid	32
	Drainage Inspections	163
	Conversions	12
	Public Sewers	39
	Sewage Works	72
	Conveniences	9
	Water Supplies—General	156
	Samples of Water Taken	88
	Eastern Area Water Scheme	916
	Eagnall Parish Water and Sewerage	143
	Refuse Collection and Disposal	65
	Nightsoil Collection and Disposal	78
	Infectious Diseases	47
	Fumigations	37
	Keeping of Animals	13
	Rodent Control	59
	Petroleum Stores	48
	Factories	42
	Miscellaneous Visits	87
		<hr/>
		2884

NOTICES SERVED

	Informal Notices	143
	Statutory Notices	4
(a)	Number of Nuisances Remedied	45
(b)	Number of defective dwellings rendered fit following service of Statutory and informal notices	77

Water Supplies, Sewerage and Public Cleansing

Parish	Number of Houses	(a)	(b)	(c)
		Number of Houses with Piped water Supply	Number of Houses on Sewerage System	Number of Houses from which Nightsoil is removed
Alstonefield	121			67
Bagnall	290	200†		57
Bradnop	88			19
Butterton	74			45
Endon and Stanley	555	485‡	293	93
Fawfieldhead	113			23
Grindon	75	15 (+3-std pipes)x		18
Heathylee	81			6
Heaton	103			22
Hollinsclough	58			5
Horton	284			36
Ilam	29			16
Leekfrith	136			23
Longnor	132	22*		122
Longsdon	207	102‡		20
Norton-in-the-Moors	1732	1507‡	1031	647
Onecote	77			16
Quarnford	83			21
Rushton	187			49
Sheen	89			30
Tittesworth	40			15
Warslow and Elkstones	117			43
Wetton	73			48
Total	4744	2331	1324	1441

(a) † Supplied by the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board

* Supply gravitating from spring at Hollinsclough.

xSupply gravitating from small reservoir.

(b) Three sewage disposal Works—one in the Parish of Endon and Stanley, and two in the Parish of Norton-in-the-Moors.

(c) Scheme undertaken by direct labour.

Water Supplies

The water in the area has been generally satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

The following table gives a summary of the samples of water taken during the year. The percentage of unfit samples appears to be unduly high, but they cannot be assumed to be a true representation of the area as the majority of the samples were taken upon receipt of complaints by consumers who were suspicious of the appearance or palatability of their drinking water, or where the water was suggested as a proposed private supply.

	NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN		RESULTS	
	For Bacteriological Examination	For Chemical Analysis	Fit	Unfit
Wells	11	10	2	9
Boreholes	7	8	2	6
Private Piped Supplies ...	2	5	4	1
Springs	22	22	5	17
Brook	1	—	—	1
Total ...	43	45	13	34

In no case did the chemical analyses reveal plumbo-solvent action of the water sampled.

Upon receipt of the results of water samples from the Laboratories copies of the reports are transmitted to the consumer and/or persons requesting the analysis, and advice given as to the treatment where an unsatisfactory report is received.

Particulars as to houses served by public water mains and stand-pipes are embodied in the table on the previous page.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No new works of sewerage and sewage disposal were carried out during the year.

HOUSING.

New Houses Erected During the Year.

(a) By Local Authority (Endon Site)	6
(b) By Private Enterprise	8
	<hr/>
	14

Control of Civil Building—Building Licences

No. of Private Building Licenses Granted	10
No. of Private Houses Built During Year	8
No. of Licenses issued for Repairs, Adaptations, etc., to Property	32

Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	206
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	235
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	16
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	16
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	143

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers	77
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a)	Proceedings under the Housing Act 1936	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Act 1936	Nil
(c)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which an undertaking not to use a dwelling for human habitation was accepted (Housing Act 1936)	Nil

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	25		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	12	17		
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ‡ (excluding out - workers' premises)				
TOTAL	33	42		

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) . .					
(a) insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective..					
(c) Not separate for sexes..					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	6	6			
TOTAL	6	6			

‡ i.e. Electrical Stations [Section 103 (1)], Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering construction (sections 107 and 108).

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

There were 18 outworkers notified during the year for the making of wearing apparel.

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION.

Food Preparing Premises.

There are 8 premises in the Area registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the manufacture of prepared meats.

Twenty-nine shops are registered under the Act for the sale of Ice Cream.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

MEAT—Carcases Inspected and Condemned—Nil.

There is no Regional - Controlled abattoir nor private slaughter houses licensed in the area.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Thirty-eight licenses were issued for the storage of Petroleum spirit.

MILK SUPPLY.

THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS AND THE SPECIAL DESIGNATION REGULATIONS.

These Regulations came into operation on 1st October, 1949.

The duties and powers of the Local Authority become substantially altered consequent upon these Regulations coming into being, and the Local Authority is now mainly responsible for the supervision of Milk Distributors (i.e. retailers other than farmers) and of Dairies other than Dairy farms.

Registrations and licences granted by the Council in connection with the Regulations are as follows:—

(1)	(a) No. of Distributors	13
	(b) No. of Dairies (other than Dairy Farms)	5
(2)	No. of licenses issued to sell—	
	(a) Tuberculin Tested Milk	3
	(b) Sterilised Milk	9
	(c) Pasteurised Milk	5

Ice Cream Samples

Six samples of Ice Cream were taken during the year and the results are tabulated below:—

Provisional Grade.	Samples Taken.
1	2
2	2
3	—
4	1
	1 (not graded)
	<hr/> 6

The report of the Director of the Public Health Laboratory suggests that over a six monthly period 50 per cent. of a vendor's samples should fall into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 per cent. into Grade 3, and none into grade 4.

Meat and Other Foods

Number of Slaughterhouses Licenced	—
Number of Knacker's Yards Licenced	1
Number of men holding licence to slaughter	62

Weight of Foods Condemned

(a) Tinned Foods	4 lbs.
(b) Miscellaneous Foods	—
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	4 lbs.

H. KELSO WATSON

Medical Officer of Health.

F. HEMINGWAY

Sanitary Inspector.

